

spread awareness about this disease. I encourage you all to join the caucus so that together we can improve the quality of life of those living with Spina Bifida.

I again wish to thank the SBAA and its chapters for all of their hard work to prevent and reduce suffering for those individuals living with Spina Bifida throughout this Nation. We all owe a great debt to the SBAA for what they have done.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. XAVIER BECERRA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 18, 2005

Mr. BECERRA. Mr. Speaker, on Monday, October 17, 2005, I was unable to cast my floor vote on rollcall Nos. 521, 522 and 523. The rollcalls I missed included a vote on approving the journal, a vote recognizing the importance and positive contributions of chemistry to our everyday lives and supporting the goals and ideals of National Chemistry Week, and a vote expressing the sense of the House of Representatives with respect to raising awareness and enhancing the state of computer security in the United States, and supporting the goals and ideals of National Cyber Security Awareness Month.

Had I been present for the votes, I would have voted "aye" on rollcall votes 521, 522 and 523.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. PATRICK J. KENNEDY

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 18, 2005

Mr. KENNEDY of Rhode Island. Mr. Speaker, on the evening of October 17, I missed three Rollcall votes. It was my intention to vote:

"Yes" on Recorded Vote 521 Journal Vote.

"Yes" on Recorded Vote 522 H. Res. 457. Recognizing the importance and positive contributions of chemistry to our everyday lives and supporting the goals and ideals of National Chemistry Week (Rep. HOLT—Science).

"Yes" on Recorded Vote 523 H. Res. 491. Expressing the sense of Congress with respect to raising awareness and enhancing the state of computer security in the United States, and supporting the goals and ideals of National Cyber Security Awareness Month.

BELLOWS FALLS ACADEMY CELEBRATES 75 YEARS OF ACCOMPLISHMENT

HON. BERNARD SANDERS

OF VERMONT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 18, 2005

Mr. SANDERS. Mr. Speaker, I wish to extend congratulations to Bellows Free Academy of St. Albans, Vermont, on its 75th anniversary. Our democratic society depends for its very existence on an educated and informed population. In that respect, there is no task in

our society more important than educating our youth. For three-quarters of a century, BFA has been doing just that for students in St. Albans and surrounding towns in Franklin County: educating area students academically and preparing them to fully participate in our American democracy.

So it is a particular pleasure for me to recognize the magnitude of this achievement: for 75 years Bellows Free Academy has taught the young citizens of St. Albans and its neighboring towns. Those seven and a half decades have seen the high school serve as a binding force in the community, bringing it together behind sports and drama and whole variety of activities. They have seen generation after generation of young people fully prepared by BFA for the challenges of the adult world, young people whom BFA has taught and trained so they can find satisfying work and take their place as active and concerned members of their communities.

Of course, any institution is really only a reflection of the dedication and commitment of all the people involved with it. So recognition of BFA's 75-year history is really a recognition of the administrators, teachers, and, of course, students—present and former—who themselves are a living testament to the important role that BFA has played and continues to play in the lives of so many since its founding.

At time of this celebration, let me offer the wish that many, many more decades of rich and productive accomplishment lay ahead for Bellows Free Academy, its students, its teachers and its support community.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 18, 2005

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, on Friday, October 7, 2005, I was unavoidably detained and thus missed rollcall vote No. 520. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall vote No. 520, H. Con. Res. 248, honoring the life and work of Simon Wiesenthal and reaffirming the commitment of Congress to the fight against anti-Semitism and intolerance in all forms, in all forums, and in all nations.

IN MEMORY OF OUR FALLEN DALLAS FIRE FIGHTERS

HON. PETE SESSIONS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 18, 2005

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of the Dallas Fire Fighters who have laid down their lives in the line of duty while serving the citizens of the City of Dallas. They will be remembered at the Dallas Fire-Rescue Department Memorial Service at the Dodd J. Miller, Jr. Training Center on October 22. In addition, I honor the family, friends and fellow fire fighters who grieve their loss and carry out their legacies.

Many times it is only the fire fighters that stand between our communities and countless dangers. In times of need, they are the first to arrive and remain vigilant on the front lines.

We have come to depend on their heroism, fortitude and bravery and they never falter.

I encourage the loved ones of these fallen heroes to reflect on the selflessness of their sacrifice and the glory of their actions. In the face of great danger, they did not waver in their commitment to help those who could not help themselves.

I am privileged to represent these true American heroes. They served with pride and died with honor and we will forever be grateful for their selfless service. May their loved ones and colleagues accept the many thanks of our grateful nation.

HONORING JACK C. SMITH AND FOOD CITY'S 50 YEARS OF BUSINESS

HON. WILLIAM L. JENKINS

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 18, 2005

Mr. JENKINS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the contributions of a man who has made a significant presence on the business landscape of Tennessee, Virginia, and Kentucky. In 1954, Jack C. Smith made a decision to get into the grocery business in his hometown of Grundy, Virginia. It is a simple story of a man at the age of 29 who saw a need for his community, worked with his family to find the necessary startup capital, and started a grocery store that has not only survived, but thrived and has become a fixture in the region. The following excerpt from the book *The Grocer and his Dream—The Story of Jack Smith and KVAT Foods* tells the story:

Jack Curtis Smith was born August 21, 1925 in Grundy, VA, deep in the coal mining region of Buchanan County. He was the only child of Curtis and Elizabeth Belcher Smith.

The nation was on the verge of World War II when Jack graduated from Grundy High School in 1942 and set his sights on a military career. Specifically, he wanted to be in the Navy and he wanted to become an officer.

On Flag Day, June 14, 1944, Jack Smith was sworn in as a midshipman at the U.S. Naval Academy in Annapolis, Maryland. Jack graduated in June, 1947 as an electrical engineer.

Jack and Judy Smith were married in a formal military ceremony at the Naval Academy Chapel, September 20, 1947. "We had the crossed swords, everything," Jack recalls.

In Spring, 1954, Jack Smith was back in his picturesque hometown of Grundy, VA after 10 years in the Navy. Jack and his young family had just finished an exhausting trek from California to the mountains of southwest Virginia where he expected to help his cousin Ernest Smith open several new Ben Franklin variety stores.

"When I got back to Grundy I went to see my cousin Ernest and said, 'Well, I'm ready to go to work,'" Jack explains. "Then Ernest told me he didn't think his planned expansion was going to work out."

Ernest Smith had operated a successful Ben Franklin store in Grundy for several years and was in the market to purchase several additional stores in the area. The deal, however, didn't pan out and Jack Smith suddenly found himself with a wife, two young daughters and no job.

"As luck would have it, mother sent me to the store one day. It was just a little A&P with two checkouts and one of those never